

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00632 240745Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 070237

O 240720Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 2735

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP KISSINGER, HENRY A., XF, IS

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

REF: JERUSALEM 658

1. I DELIVERED MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL TO FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI 2100 HOURS MARCH 23, ASKING THAT HE RELAY IT TO SHAIKH ZAYID. FONMIN PROMISED TO DO SO SAYING THAT SHAIKH ZAYID HAD HOPED TO SEE ME PERSONALLY BUT WAS IN AL AIN THAT DAY. SUWAIDI THOUGHT SHAIKH ZAYID WOULD ASK TO SEE WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. WHEN I FINISHED READING TEXT OF MESSAGE, SUWAIDI SAID NEWS CAME AS SURPRISE TO HIM, BECAUSE HE HAD THOUGHT KISSINGER MISSION WAS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS. I SAID IT HAD ALSO COME AS SURPRISE TO ME. FONMIN SAID IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A SETBACK, KISSINGER MISSION WAS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO THE ARABS, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF WORLD PEACE. SUWAIDI SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR ASSURANCE IN MESSAGE OF CONTINUING UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO THE SEARCH FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT. ARABS RECOGNIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS THE ONLY POWER THAT COULD BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

3. SUWAIDI ASKED WHAT WENT WRONG, AND WHETHER SENTENCE IN MESSAGE PRAISING PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATESMANSHIP INDICATED THAT WE FELT SADAT HAD DONE HIS PART WHILE ISRAELIS HAD FAILED TO DO THEIRS. ALSO, COULD I SHED ANY LIGHT ON LETTER WHICH NEWS BROADCASTS REPORTED HAD BEEN SENT FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO RABIN, WHICH SOME ISRAELIS WERE ALLEGING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABU DH 00632 240745Z

TO BE "THREATENING". I SAID BEYOND CONTENTS OF MESSAGE I HAD BEEN

INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY, AND WHAT WE WERE BOTH READING IN NEWSPAPERS AND HEARING ON RADIO, I HAD NO DETAILS ABOUT HOW THE FINAL STAGES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD GONE. I TOLD SUWAIDI THAT WHEN THE GULF AMBASSADORS HAD SEEN THE SECRETARY IN RIYADH AT END OF HIS EXPLORATORY

TRIP MONTH AGO, WHILE HE HAD FELT THERE WAS SUFFICIENT PROSPECT FOR AGREEMENT TO JUSTIFY ANOTHER TRIP TO AREA, HE WAS AT THE SAME TIME CONSCIOUS OF THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE OVERCOME. AT PRESIDENT SADAT'S REQUEST WE HAD FOCUSED ON AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE INVOLVED MAJOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERING MILITARY EQUATION IN SINAI. GIVEN THAT FACT IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT ISRAEL WAS ALSO SETTING ITS SIGHTS HIGH IN WHAT THEY WERE SEEKING TO ACHIEVE IN EXCHANGE.

4. SUWAIDI ASKED FOR MY COMMENTS ON INTERNAL ISRAELI POLITICAL SCENE. I SAID I WAS OUT OF TOUCH WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, BUT IT WAS CONSTANT FACT OF ISRAELI POLITICS THAT RIGHTWING HARDLINERS, BACKED BY MILITARY, WERE POWERFUL FORCE IN ISRAELI POLITICS. IT WAS NOT NEASY FOR MANY ISRAELIS TO RELINQUISH LAND WHICH HAD BEEN CONQUERED WITH ISRAELI BLOOD.

5. SUWAIDI ASKED WHERE I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD GO FROM HERE. I SAID MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON INDICATED THAT WE WOULD REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED AND THAT WE BELIEVED PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT WAS NOW NECESSARY.

5. ALTHOUGH THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION SUWAIDI WAS CALM AND REFLECTIVE, I SENSED UNDERCURRENT OF CONCERN. I ENDED OUR MEETING BY SAYING THAT ALL OF US WHO UNDERSTOOD THE DIMENSIONS OF THIS PROBLEM KNEW FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT THE ROAD TO PEACE SETTLEMENT WOULD NOT BE EASY. THERE WOULD INEVITABLY BE SOME UPS AND DOWNS AS WE PROGRESSED BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF THE GOVERNMENTS IN THIS AREA TO KEEP THEIR SENSE OF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ABOUT THE SITUATION AND NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED--OR FOR THAT MATTER OVERLY ELATED--BY MOMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. WE STILL HAD TWO FIRST STAGE AGREEMENTS IN FORCE WHICH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE PARTIES WITH UNITED STATES HELP AND WHICH GAVE THE PARTIES AN IMPORTANT STAKE IN THE PEACE PROCESS. THIS CONSTITUTED VITAL FOUNDATION FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT WHICH HAD TO BE BUILT ON, AND WE WERE STILL WAY AHEAD OF THE GAME COMPARED WITH THOSE DARK EARLIER DAYS WHEN THERE HAD BEEN NO AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL, NO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ABU DH 00632 240745Z

EXPERIENCE OF SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS. THE UNITED STATES HAD GREAT DEAL AT STAKE IN A PEACE SETTLEMENT AND MESSAGE I HAD TO CONVEY FROM WASHINGTON INDICATED THAT WE WERE NOT ABANDONING THE SEARCHYNOR PEACE.
STERNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARBITRATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABUDH00632
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0916
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750323/aaaaauvv.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 JERUSALEM 658
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, IS, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006